

THE POPE CALLS FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER

Pope John Paul II launched one of the most important diplomatic initiatives of his long papacy on 1 January when he called for "a new international order" to replace the one that emerged from the Second World War.

Though he did not offer a detailed plan, his words appeared to show that he wanted the United Nations replaced in view of its failure to block the US-led use of force in Iraq.

The Pope called in December for the reform of world institutions and deplored any failure to respect international law. But in a sermon during a mass at St Peter's in Rome he went much further, referring to the UN as if it were already a part of the past.

"More than ever, we need a new international order that draws on the experience and results achieved in these years by the United Nations," he declared during a service to mark the Roman Catholic Church's World Day of Peace, celebrated on 1 January.

In his homily, the Pope said the new world order he wanted "would be able to provide solutions to the problems of today...based on the dignity of human beings, an integrated development of society, solidarity between rich and poor



nations, and on the sharing of resources and the extraordinary results of scientific and technological progress".

The Pope believes that not enough of these goals are being achieved with the present system of international organisations, including the UN, the IMF and the World Bank, that emerged in the late 1940s.

The central issue, seen from the Vatican's point of view, is the growing irrelevance of a painstakingly constructed body of international law which is being ignored by the US administration during its "war on terror".

(Source: The Guardian, 2 January 2004)

IRAQ POLLUTED BY DEPLETED URANIUM

US and coalition forces unleashed at least 75 tons of toxic depleted uranium on Iraq during the war, reports the *Christian Science Monitor*.

An unnamed US Central Command spokesman disclosed to the *Monitor* in late November that coalition forces fired 300,000 bullets coated with armour-piercing depleted uranium (DU) during the war.

"The normal combat mix for these 30-mm rounds is five DU bullets to one—a mix that would have left about 75 tons of DU in Iraq," wrote correspondent Scott Peterson.

Peterson measured four sites around Baghdad struck with depleted uranium munitions and found high levels of radioactive contamination, but few warnings to this effect issued among the populace at large.

While the Pentagon maintains that spent weapons coated with the low-level radioactive nuclear waste are relatively harmless, Peterson notes that US soldiers have taken it upon themselves to print leaflets or post signs warning of DU contamination.

"After we shoot something with DU, we're not supposed to go around it, due to the fact that it could cause cancer," said one sergeant, requesting anonymity.

On a group of abandoned, burnt-out US munitions supply trucks, Peterson saw signs put up by US troops, warning in Arabic, "Danger: Get away from this area". A local vendor said that soldiers in masks warned him and others to keep away from the site.

Two other sites visited were randomly selected Iraqi armoured vehicles destroyed with DU bullets. The remains of these tanks sit near a produce vendor on the outskirts of Baghdad, and have become popular playthings for children. The Geiger counter reading from "a DU bullet fragment no bigger than a pencil eraser" near one child registered 1,000 times the normal level.

There were no warnings posted to inform the populace of the radioactive emissions coming from any of the tanks.

(Source: *Yellow Times.org*, 5 December 2003, <http://www.yellowtimes.org/article.php?sid=1683>)



"Cracked pepper or depleted uranium?"

UK GOVT ADMITS MI6 PLANTED STORIES ON IRAQI WMD

The British government has confirmed that MI6 had organised Operation Mass Appeal, a campaign to plant stories in the media about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

A senior official admitted that MI6 had been at the heart of a campaign launched in the late 1990s to spread information about Saddam's development of nerve agents and other weapons, but denied that it had planted misinformation.

The admission followed claims by Scott Ritter, who led 14 inspection missions in Iraq, that MI6 had recruited him in 1997 to help with the propaganda effort. He described meetings where the senior officer and at least two other MI6 staff had discussed ways to manipulate intelligence material.

"The aim was to convince the public that Iraq was a far greater threat than it actually was," Ritter said.

He said there was evidence that MI6 continued to use similar propaganda tactics up to the invasion of Iraq earlier in 2003. "Stories ran in the media about secret underground facilities in Iraq and ongoing programs [to produce weapons of mass destruction]," said Ritter. "They were sourced to Western intelligence and all of them were garbage."

Kelly, himself a former United Nations weapons inspector and colleague of Ritter, may also have been used by MI6 to pass information to the media.

"Kelly was a known and government-approved conduit with the media," said Ritter.

Lord Hutton's report is expected to deliver a verdict in January on whether intelligence was misused in order to promote the case for going to war.

Lord Hutton heard evidence that Kelly was authorised by the Foreign Office to speak to journalists on Iraq. Kelly was in close touch with the "Rockingham cell", a group of weapons experts that received MI6 intelligence.

The campaign was judged to be having a successful effect on public opinion.

Poland, India and South Africa were initially chosen as targets for the campaign because they were non-aligned UN countries not supporting the British and US position on sanctions. At the time, in 1997, Poland was also a member of the UN Security Council.

Ritter was a willing accomplice to the

alleged propaganda effort when first approached by MI6's station chief in New York. He obtained approval to cooperate from Richard Butler, then Executive Chairman of the UN Special Commission on Iraq Disarmament.

(Source: The Times, UK, posted 29 December 2003 at http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/Display_news.asp?section=World_News&subsection=United+Kingdom+%26+Europe&month=December2003&file=World_News2003122921734.xml)

FCC APPROVES MURDOCH'S MEDIA MEGA-MERGER

In a devastating blow for media diversity, the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on 19 December, on a contentious 3 to 2 vote, approved a "\$6.6 billion media mega-merger" between DirecTV satellite television service and Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation.

The merger will add DirecTV's 11 million subscribers to Murdoch's US empire, which already includes local television stations reaching more than 44 per cent of the country, a major national broadcast network, numerous cable and satellite channels, the most widely used electronic program guide, newspapers, magazines, a publishing house and movie studios.

The unprecedented size and scope of Murdoch's holding will, according to FCC Commissioner Jonathan A. Adelstein, put

News Corporation "in a position to raise programming prices for consumers, harm competition in video programming and distribution markets nationwide, and decrease the diversity of media ownership". News Corp. owns a vast array of television outlets, including many which feature highly coveted regional sports programming.

The acquisi-

tion of DirecTV will give News Corporation even more bargaining clout when it negotiates retransmission fees with cable and satellite competitors. Even the FCC recognised this could be a problem.

Ever wonder how Rupert Murdoch usually gets what he wants? News Corp. spent nearly US\$10 million on lobbying from 1999 to 2002. Murdoch himself has met personally with FCC commissioners and key lawmakers several times. For the 2004 election, News Corp. has already contributed \$200,000. For the 2000 and 2002 cycles, the company's contributions exceeded \$1.7 million.

(Source: The Progress Report, 25 December 2003, http://truthout.org/docs_03/122503E.shtml)

SADDAM HUSSEIN CAPTURED FIRST BY KURDISH FORCES

Saddam Hussein was found by US troops only after he had been taken prisoner by Kurdish forces, drugged and abandoned ready for American soldiers to recover him.

Saddam Hussein came into the hands of the Kurdish Patriotic Front after being betrayed to the group by a member of the al-Jabour tribe, whose daughter had been raped by Saddam's son Uday, leading to a blood feud, according to the UK *Sunday Express*, which quoted an unnamed senior British military intelligence officer.



"He designed and registered his own sandbox flag. Yeah, I think it's safe to assume he's an Alpha male."

... GLOBAL NEWS ...

The newspaper said the full story of events leading up to the ousted Iraqi President's capture on 13 December near his home town of Tikrit in northern Iraq "exposes the version peddled by American spin doctors as incomplete".

A former Iraqi intelligence officer, whom the *Express* did not name, told the paper that Saddam was held prisoner by a leader of the Kurdish Patriotic Front, which fought alongside US forces during the Iraq war, until the leader negotiated a deal. This apparently involved the group's gaining political advantage in the region.

An unnamed Western intelligence source in the Middle East told the *Express* that "Saddam was not captured as a result of any American or British intelligence".

(Sources: The Courier Mail, The Sydney Morning Herald, 21 December 2003)

BANNED US LFAS SONAR TESTING CONTINUES

Recently, the head of the Spanish marine protection agency, CEPESMA, Luis Laria, claimed that shock waves from scientific tests carried out by the Spanish vessel *Hesperides*—operating, according to sources, out of the naval base at Rota in the Gulf of Cadiz—has caused the deaths of four giant squid off the Spanish coast.

Few details of the incident were reported in the local or international media because of the secrecy surrounding the tests, but *Intelligence* believes they may be similar to the Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System (SURTASS) Low Frequency

Active Sonar (LFAS) submarine detection trials which began in August at the top-secret British Underwater Testing and Evaluation Centre (BUTEC) at Kyle of Lochalsh, on the west coast of Scotland. Moreover, Rota has been a US Navy submarine base for several decades.

LFAS sonar has been developed by US scientists over the past decade and uses an underwater low-frequency signal to detect hostile submarines. Described as "millions of times more powerful" than the pulsed-sound location technology used by traditional sonar systems, LFAS sonar is based on the fact that intense low-frequency sound—100 to 1000 Hz—can travel thousands of nautical miles through the ocean.

The US Navy admits that the sounds—which are generated by huge transmitters towed behind TAGOS-class destroyers—can reach 235 decibels, approximately twice the average noise level of a jet engine. Since 1988, LFAS sonar has been tested 25 times for over 7,500 hours in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans.

Last year, whales of four different species died on beaches across the northern Bahamas during US Navy exercises. In August 2002, a flotilla of US Navy destroyers off the Spanish-administered Canary Islands carried out a series of LFAS tests which, according to US environmentalists, resulted in the deaths of 17 whales.

The beached mammals were found to have suffered internal bleeding and eye, ear and brain damage.

On 31 October 2002, Judge Elizabeth

LaPorte, sitting at San Francisco Federal Court, found that evidence compiled on the Canary Islands incident by five environmental groups, supported by testimony from marine biologists, showed that LFAS testing caused internal bleeding and disorientation to a whole range of sea creatures, including whales, dolphins, seals and sea turtles. Judge LaPorte banned LFAS testing and use of LFAS technology off the US coast.

Rather than challenge a federal court ruling, the Pentagon took the in-shore SURTASS test ban problem to the US State Department. According to the Dublin magazine *Phoenix*, the Bush Administration then asked the British Ministry of Defence to allow the Royal Navy to take over, and so LFAS tests "shifted to British warships" based in the Inner Hebrides.

(Source: *Intelligence, France*, no. 429, 20 October 2003, p. 3)

YELLOWSTONE PARK SUPER-VOLCANO SET TO BLOW?

Geologists claim that Yellowstone Park, which happens to be on top of one of the largest "super-volcanoes" in the world, has been on a regular eruption cycle of 600,000 years. The last eruption was 640,000 years ago, making the next one long overdue. This next eruption could be 2,500 times the size of the 1980 Mount St Helens eruption.

In July 2003, Yellowstone Park rangers closed the entire Norris Geyser Basin because of deformation of the land and excessively high ground temperatures. There is an area 28 miles long by 7 miles wide that has bulged upward over five inches since 1996, and this year the ground temperature on that bulge reached over 200 degrees Fahrenheit [93.33 degrees Celsius] (measured one inch below ground level). Everything in the area is dying and the animals are literally migrating out of the park.

In late July, one of the Park geologists discovered a huge bulge at the bottom of Yellowstone Lake. The bulge has already risen over 100 feet from the bottom of the lake and the water temperature at the surface of the bulge has reached 88°F [31.1°C] and is still rising. Keep in mind that Yellowstone Lake is a high mountain lake with very cold water temperatures.

The lake is now closed to the public. It is filled with dead fish floating everywhere. The same is true of the Yellowstone River and most of the other streams in the park. Dead and dying fish are filling the water



"My life coach advised me to hire a consultant to headhunt a mediator to sack my personal trainer."

everywhere. Many of the picnic areas in the park have been closed and people visiting the park usually stay but a few hours before leaving, since the stench of sulphur is so strong they literally can't stand the smell.

The irony of all this is the silence by the news media and our government. Very little information is available from Yellowstone personnel or publications. What mainstream news stories do appear underscore the likelihood of a massive volcanic eruption.

Though geologists publicly admit Yellowstone is "overdue", they have been quoted as stating another massive magma release may not occur for 100,000 or two million years.

Others close to the story are convinced that a massive eruption is imminent. A source who has demonstrated first-hand knowledge of the park's history and recent geothermal events stated the following:

"The American people are not being told that the explosion of this 'super-volcano' could happen at any moment."

Some geologists predict that when Yellowstone does blow, "every living thing within 600 miles is likely to die".

"The movement of magma has been detected just three-tenths of a mile below the bulging surface of the ground in Yellowstone, raising concerns that this super-volcano may erupt soon."

(Source: The Idaho Observer, December 2003, <http://www.proliberty.com/observer/20031219.htm>)

GARLIC INGREDIENT KILLS HOSPITAL SUPERBUGS

An ingredient in garlic may offer one of the best defences against hospital superbugs, research shows.

Tests by Dr Ron Cutler, a microbiologist from the University of East London, showed it can cure patients with MRSA-infected wounds "within days", he said.

Allicin, which occurs naturally in garlic, not only killed known varieties of MRSA, but also new superbug generations resistant to "last resort" antibiotics such as vancomycin. The findings are to be published in the *Journal of Biomedical Science* in the new year.

MRSA — methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* — causes 2,000 deaths in UK hospitals each year, mainly by infecting surgical wounds.

(Source: The Independent, UK, 30 December 2003)

GLOBAL PREDICTIONS FOR 2004

from Philosopher Mrs Phipps-Earl

Michael Wells Mandeville writes that author, Mrs Phipps-Earl, is not a "channeller" or a light-weight. She has been writing a deep review of modern philosophy at the university level on the nature of our consensus reality, our moral or social purpose, and our perception, and has absolutely no desire to be known for these predictions but for her work in philosophy. In her letter to Mr Mandeville, dated 27 December 2003, and in a subsequent email, Mrs Phipps-Earl writes, among other things:

In having been slowly but surely emptied over the past few months and most noticeably over the past week, I am standing in stillness, this stillness also reflected in Nature itself over the past few days. Over the past five or six years I have made predictions at this time of year; tis as if I am emptied to allow for the seeing. I do not prepare myself to see, nor do I myself attempt to see; I merely do see. As I wrote in the email above, massive changes are about to occur through the world. It is going to be a rocky road. Hang on tight and be ever mindful.

All hell is about to break out, not just in one area of the world, but throughout every inch of the planet and surrounding skies. For years, people have spoken about Earth changes; I myself have been speaking about them since I was 12 years old. In the next four months there are going to be horrific Earth changes—changes beyond our imagination. Across the board in the northern hemisphere there will be massive floods, earth slides, earthquakes. In Asia there will be devastation, earthquakes most notably in China and Japan, volcanic eruptions, floods, mudslides and tidal waves in the Philippines and South Pacific.

There will be earthquakes in NZ, massive cyclones and floods in some areas of Australia and scorching droughts in other areas of Australia. Canada will have massive flood and blizzards. The US is in for a time of it with earthquakes all down the West Coast. I think I said last year that entire sections of the West Coast USA will fall into the sea; a mountain range will be the future coastline of the US West. Oil will flow in the ocean off the southern West Coast. Water supplies in the US will be contaminated. Do not drink the milk, and stock up on bottled water.

There are predictions I made over the last several years that have not happened yet. However, they are now about to begin. There will be civil war in the US. You will need to keep away from big cities. New York will once again see fire in the very early new year. People on an island, which looks toward New York, will look upon the fire and devastation.

A huge theme park in Florida will be devastated, people screaming, many injured and dead. Television stations and media outlets will somehow be unable to operate; there will be a loss of contact. Bush will go into hiding, many Americans screaming out against him. There will be devastation in California, Alabama and Missouri, people walking (not driving) away from towns.

One of Britain's future kings will be near death. The Pope will pass from this world around 15 February. Russia, France, Germany and several other European nations will make a pact. Korea will become hostile. Something is going to happen in Israel; God will lift his hand. While God will not cause an event to occur, this event is predestined. The Palestinians will not cause the event, but will rejoice in witnessing this event, perceiving it as God's will. The Arab nations will join forces, not to cause war but to separate themselves from the devastation in the West. However, in witnessing the suffering of many in the West, the Arab nations will do an act of great kindness. Many nations throughout the world will close their borders and protect themselves. By June, money will no longer be the most powerful means of exchange. The basic necessities of life—food and water—will become the greatest bargaining chips.

Africa will have volcanic eruptions, massive fires and drought. There will be earthquakes in Mexico, and the channel between North and South America will not be able to be used for shipping. Of all the nations in the world, South America's will be the least affected and will gain security by supplying the necessities of life to other nations. Three world leaders will be assassinated. Many will turn to God, for there will seem to be nowhere else to turn.

There will be four substantial earthquakes in Australia in the first five months of 2004: in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia... Beaches washed away on the Gold and Sunshine coasts. Water rushing in from the ocean up the Brisbane River, flooding inner city area... There will be massive strikes with the building industry, dockers, shipping, airlines, public transport and transport supplies; milk and supermarket food shortages.

The US dollar will drop to an all-time low; the euro will be the leading currency. Deals will be made between Eastern European countries and Arab nations; they will be on very friendly terms. There will be all-out war between India and Pakistan. Tibet and China will bring relief and aid. US troops will be stationed *en masse* in Taiwan. I don't know why.

A large group of scientists from throughout the world will come to Australia for an indefinite period, probably in April. There will also be much scientific activity/work going on in the South Pole. A book will be launched, probably in London, which will have all the world talking.

(Source: Forwarded by PlanetNews@aol.com from Michael Wells Mandeville's website. To read the complete text, go to <http://www.michaelmandeville.com>. See review of Mandeville's book, *The Coming Economic Collapse of 2006*, in this issue.)